Afghan Nationals arrested in Kerala

2396. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Afghan nationals were recently arrested in Trivandrum by Kerala police;

(b) if so, the reasons of their arrest and the action taken thereafter; and

(c) the total number of arrested Afghan nationals in India since January 1, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the report received from the Govt. of Kerala, 40 Afghan nationals including women and children were arrested at Trivandrum on 27-02-1989. Seventeen of them were holding fake travel documents and the remaining were without any travel documents. They were remanded to judicial custody till 13-03-1989 by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Trivandrum.

(c) Information is being collected and will be furnished in due course.

Opening of branches of Banks

2397. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to increase the number of banks in the country in the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, what is the number of branches of different banks opened both in the rural and urban areas in Orissa as on 28th February, 1989;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to set up some new branches of different public sector banks in Orissa in 1989-90 financial year; and

(d) if so, what is the number and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The aim of current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 co-terminus with Seventh Five Year Plan period is to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and make available at least one bank office within a distance of 10 kms. from every village. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) advised the Lead Bank Groups/ State Governments to identify centres in rural and semi-urban areas and forward the lists of identified centres to RBI for consideration of allotment. Expansion in urban /metropolitan areas are allowed on the basis of proposals submitted by banks as per guidelines issued by RBI for the purpose.

RBI has reported that on the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government of Orissa for rural and semi-urban centres and proposals submitted by banks for urban and metropolitan areas, it has upto 28-2-1989 allotted 202 centres to various banks for opening branches in Orissa as per details given below:—

Bank Group	Rural and Semi-Urban	Urban Metropolitan
Public Sector Banks	125	19
Regional Rural Banks	58	..
TOTAL:	183	19

Out of these 202 centres, banks had opened branches at 104 centres upto 31-12-1988. Initially, RBI advised the banks to open branches at the allotted centres in a phased manner. However, in the context of Service Area Approach to rural lending RBI subsequently advised the banks to open branches at the allotted centres in

rural and semi-urban areas by 31-3-1989 except in rare cases where minimum infrastructural facilities are not available.

Bank credit for industrial development in Uttar Pradesh

2398. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total bank credit made available to Uttar Pradesh for industrial development during the last and current financial years; and

(b) what are the corresponding figures of others States in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Central Government employees charged for Espionage

2399. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government employees involved and arrested on charges of espionage during the last three years;

(b) the details of charges against these persons; and

(c) the number of such persons convicted during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Fraud in the State Bank of Indore

2400. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fraud of Rs. 1.66 crores came to light through wrong guarantee issued by the then Manager of State Bank of Indore, Connaught Circus, New Delhi during July, 86 to 30th July, 87;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken against guilty officers and if not what are the reasons thereof; and

(c) what is the amount outstanding in this case and what is the present position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The State Bank of Indore has reported that there was no fraud at its Connaught Circus, New Delhi branch during the period July 1986 to 30th July, 1987 in the matter of issue of bank guarantees by the branch. According to the Bank, the branch had issued certain guarantees aggregating to Rs. 1 66 crores during the period on behalf of its constituents in the normal course of business. Two of the guarantees involving Rs. 12.40 lakhs were invoked. After adjusting the margin money of Rs. 1.24 lakhs, the balance of Rs. 11.16 lakhs was paid by the bank to the beneficiaries. The bank is now taking action to file a suit against its constituents on whose behalf the guarantees were issued for the recovery of the amount plus interest costs. The guarantees were issued by the then branch manager in excess of his discretionary powers for which he has been censured by the bank.